



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mitt Romney, Governor ♦ Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor ♦ Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
July 2, 2003

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**ROMNEY AWARDS 3 COMMUNITIES \$1.496 M FOR “SMART GROWTH” PROJECTS**  
*Amesbury receives \$526,000 of funds to build affordable apartments at Counting House*

Calling upon the need to increase the state’s housing supply by utilizing the principles of “smart growth”, Governor Mitt Romney today awarded the towns of Amesbury and Middleboro and the City of Woburn \$1.496 million to renovate existing vacant upper floors of old downtown commercial buildings into brand new affordable rental apartments. The Town of Amesbury will receive \$526,000 of those funds to transform the upper story of the historic Counting House building into four new apartments, three of which will be affordable for low- and moderate-income families for the next 20 years.

“We must build more housing in Massachusetts that is affordable to those across a broad range of incomes if we are to remain economically strong and prosperous,” said Romney. “In doing so, we must also work smarter to minimize sprawl by promoting development in areas that are accessible to existing infrastructure.”

The Counting House is a gabled brick landmark that was built in 1828 at 17 Main Street and sits at the gateway to Amesbury’s Upper Millyard, a scenic waterfront park on the banks of the Pow Wow River. Since October 1999, the town has received more than \$2.4 million in state resources for similar projects aimed at revitalizing the Upper Millyard in the town’s central business district.

The award comes from the state Department of Housing and Community Development’s Housing Development Support Program (HDSP). HDSP is federally funded through the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant program, and is designed to assist housing initiatives with an emphasis on creation, preservation or improvement of small-scale projects for low- and moderate-income households. Cities and towns with populations under 50,000 are eligible to apply for HDSP funds. In addition to the four new apartments, the Counting House project will also create, through private financing, commercial space on the ground floor for three businesses.

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The Town of Middleboro and the City of Woburn will receive respectively \$590,000 and \$380,000 HDSP awards for similar projects to create new housing in the upper floors of mixed-use buildings in their downtown districts.

“We are delighted to be funding this project for the Town of Amesbury,” said DHCD Director Jane Wallis Gumble. “Today’s award means that within the last four years the town has received nearly \$3 million from DHCD to transform historic, underutilized, mixed-use buildings to bring new vitality and vibrancy to its entire downtown district.”

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